

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #
115-4

USGS Quad
Whitman

Area

Form #
28

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Town **Hanson**

Place

Address **305 King Street**

Historic Name **King-Stetson House**

Use: **Present residence**

Original residence

Date **before 1830; c. 1700-1720**

Source **maps & White's Houses**

Style/Form **Cape**

Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **granite**

Wall/Trim **clapboard**

Roof **asphalt**

Outbuildings **see description**

Major Alterations **none**

Condition **excellent**

Moved **no**

Acreage **4.87 acres**

Setting **rural residential**

Sketch Map

See continuation sheet

Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**

Organization **Hanson Historical
Commission**

Date **May 1996**

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The King-Stetson House at 305 King Street is a well-preserved, modest, one-and-one-half story cape. The Cape Cod house was especially popular in Hanson in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The five-bay wide by two-pile deep cape exhibits a number of characteristic features. These include the large center chimney and a small, one-story rear service ell. The remarkably unaltered original masses are now augmented by a one-story, three-bay addition that connects to the former carriage house. The one-and-one-half story carriage house, which is capped with a square cupola, appears to have been altered to accommodate additional living space. Decorative detailing is considerably less than other surveyed examples of this form (see form nos. 15, 18, 19) and quite modest in form. The plain center entry is framed only by three-quarter sidelights, the cornice is boxed, and the corners have thin boards. The house, which is unusually sited with the gable end to the street, retains some of its original nineteenth-century rural setting. A cluster of dense residential settlement is located just to the north of the property, across the town line in Hanover.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Throughout the nineteenth century and even well into the twentieth century King Street remained sparsely developed with less than a hand-full of small-scale houses (see form no. 27). The northern half of King Street still remains sparsely developed and lined with wooded areas. Joseph White indicates this property was originally developed in the late seventeenth century by Thomas King, who erected a cabin on the site. King's son, Deacon George King, is said to have built the house in the early eighteenth century. White indicates the property remained in the King family until 1764 when it was acquired by Seth Stetson, the first of several Stetson family members to own the property. Historic maps indicate Stetson's son Nahum owned the house on this site by 1830. Nahum Stetson is identified in the city directory as a farmer and cider and vinegar manufacturer. In 1903 the buildings, which included a house, barn, shop, new barn, shed and carriage house, were valued at \$1,230, higher than the majority of Hanson residents. Stetson also had stock in trade valued at \$100 and machinery in manufacturing also valued at \$100. He continued to own the house until after the turn of the twentieth century. By the 1930s his daughter Mrs. R. M. Bates owned the house.

REFERENCES

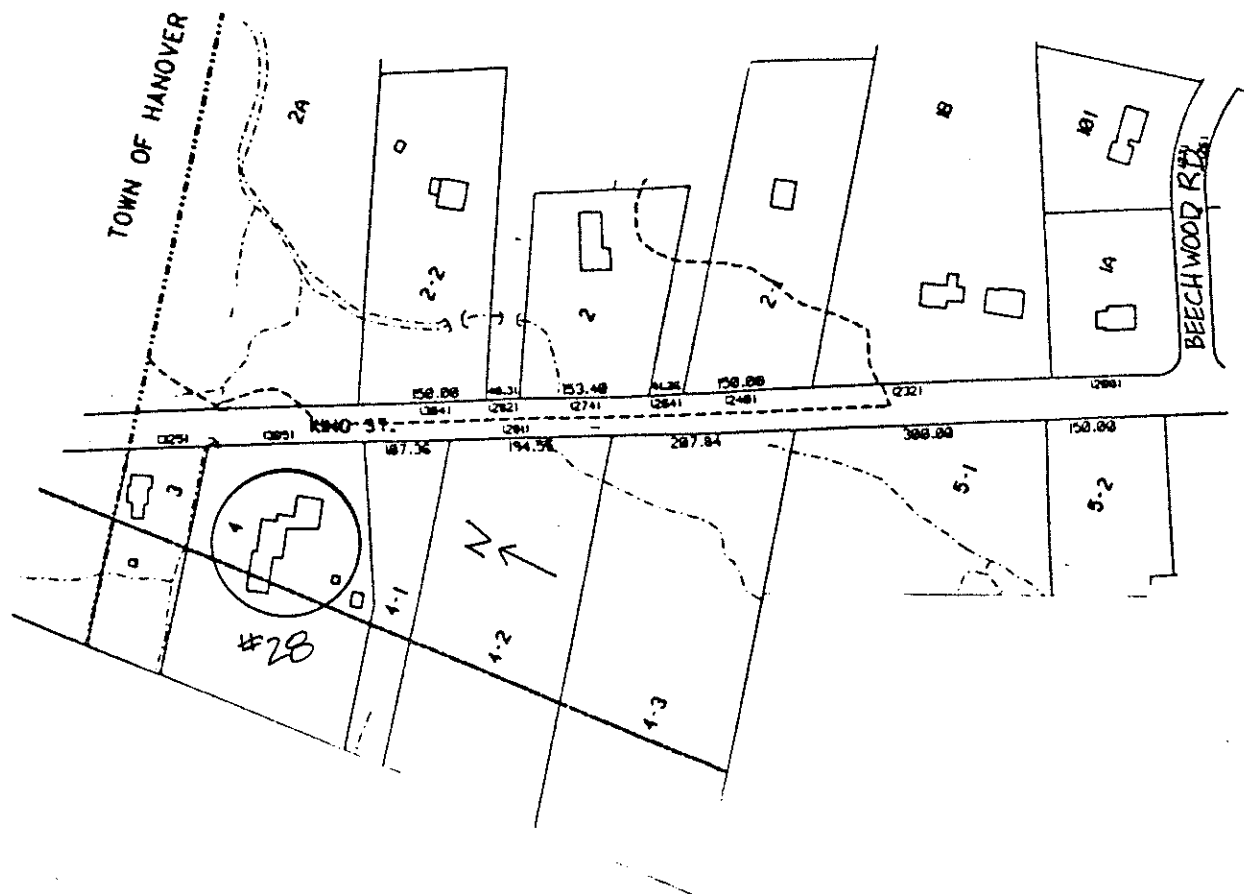
- Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
- Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
- Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
- Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903
- White, Houses of Hanson
- Town of Hanson Valuation Lists, 1834, 1856, 1879, 1903

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET
Massachusetts Historical Commission
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220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Community
Hanson
Area

Property Address
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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. In addition, the date traditionally assigned to its construction suggests it should be reviewed during the First Period survey to be conducted in 1996/97. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.